

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) [Valve for an aerosol container, the] A valve comprising:
a valve body; [within said valve body,]
a sealing ring having a rounded stem-receiving portion adapted to engage a valve stem; and [receivable by said sealing ring,]
a valve stem having a dispensing passage[, the valve stem being] adapted to be receivable by the sealing ring and adapted to slidably engage [slidably movable within] the sealing ring [from a valve-closed position to a valve-open position in which the interior of the valve body is in communication with the dispensing passage,
wherein the sealing ring is shaped such as to reduce the contact area between the sealing ring and the valve stem].
2. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 1, wherein the area of contact between the rounded stem-receiving portion of the sealing ring and the valve stem is less than 90% of [what] the area of contact [would be if the sealing ring had square-cut edges] for a non-rounded sealing ring.
3. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [either of claims 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein the sealing ring is [formable] made by a moulding process.
4. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is injection moulding.
5. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is compression moulding.
6. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is transfer moulding.

7. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the sealing ring is [not movable] adapted to be fixedly stationary relative to the valve body.

8. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 7, wherein the sealing ring is [held] adapted to be fixedly stationary within a cavity in the valve body.

9. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving [part] portion of the sealing ring [has] includes at least one rounded edge.

10. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to any of [claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving [part] portion of the sealing ring [presents] includes a lobed surface [to the stem].

11. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 10, wherein the lobed surface [and the stem-receiving part of the stem define] includes one or more wells.

12. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 11, wherein [said] the one or more wells [comprise] includes a lubricant material therein.

13. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein the valve body [has] includes a metering chamber, a sampling chamber, and [therebetween is provided]

further including a second sealing ring [within which the stem is] adapted to slidably [movable] engage the stem, and,

wherein the valve stem [having] includes a transfer passage such that in the valve-closed position the dispensing passage is isolated from the metering chamber and the metering chamber is in communication with the sampling chamber via said transfer passage, [and]

wherein, in the valve-open position, the dispensing passage is in communication with the metering chamber and the transfer passage is isolated from the metering chamber, and,

B3 wherein the second sealing ring [is shaped such as to reduce the contact area between the second sealing ring and the valve stem] includes a second rounded stem-receiving portion adapted to engage the stem.

14. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 13, wherein the area of contact between the second [sealing ring] rounded stem-receiving portion and the valve stem is less than 90% of [what] the area of contact [would be if the second] between a non-rounded sealing ring and the stem [had square-cut edges].

15. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [either of claims 13 or 14] claim 1, wherein the second sealing ring is [formable] made by a moulding process.

16. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is injection moulding.

17. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is compression moulding.

18. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is transfer moulding.

19. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 13 to 18] claim 10, wherein the second sealing ring is [not movable] adapted to be fixedly stationary relative to the valve body.

20. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 19, wherein the second sealing ring is [held] adapted to be fixedly stationary within a cavity in

the valve body.

21. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 13 to 20] claim 14, wherein the second stem-receiving [part] portion [of the second sealing ring has] includes at least one rounded edge.

22. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 13 to 21] claim 15, wherein the second stem-receiving [part of the second sealing ring presents] portion includes a lobed surface [to the stem].

23. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 22, wherein the lobed surface [and the stem-receiving part of the stem define] includes one or more wells.

24. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to claim 23, wherein [said] the one or more wells [contain] include a lubricant material [therein].

25. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 1 to 24] claim 1, wherein the sealing ring comprises an elastomeric material.

26. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [any of claims 13 to 25] claim 13, wherein the second sealing ring comprises [an] a second elastomeric material.

27. (Amended) [Valve] The valve according to [claims 25 and 26] claim 26 wherein the first and/or second elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of [(a)] a thermoplastic elastomer comprising a copolymer of about 80 to about 95 mole percent ethylene and a total of about 5 to about 20 [percent] mole percent of one or more of 1-butene, 1-hexene and 1-octene; [(b)] a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer; [(c)] an ethylene propylene diene rubber [(EPDM)]; [(d)] a thermoplastic elastomer blend of [EPDM] an ethylene propylene diene rubber dispersed in a

ay polypropylene polyethylene matrix; [(e)] a butyl polyethylene; [(f)] a butyl-polypropylene; and any mixtures thereof.

28. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to [any of claims 1 to 27] claim 27, wherein the first sealing ring additionally comprises a lubricant material.

29. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to [claims 13 to 28] claim 13, wherein the second sealing ring additionally comprises a second lubricant material.

30. (Amended) [Valve] A valve according to [any of claims 1 to 29] claim 1, wherein the stem comprises a third lubricant material.

Kindly cancel claims 31-34 without prejudice to the filing of claims directed to the subject matter therein in the instant application or in any continuing or divisional applications.